

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS OFFICE

Minutes of Meeting May 11, 2006

The May 2006 meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Lynch in the Boards' office in Lacey, Washington. Present were Chair Bill Lynch and Board Members Kathleen Mix and Andrea McNamara Doyle; Administrative Appeal Judges, Phyllis Macleod, Kay Brown, and Cassandra Noble (by telephone); Administrative Manager Robyn Bryant, and Secretary Sharon Ziegler. Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Handouts were distributed for review for the month of April, which included the pollution, shoreline, forest practice, hydraulic, and environmental and land use appeals filed, a brief summary of all cases that have closed, and the Case Statistics Report.

Appellate Update

Chair Bill Lynch reported that on April 21, 2006, SHB No. 05-025 Steven Adelstein & Deborah Adelstein, and Whatcom County v. Ecology was appealed to Whatcom County Superior Court. The file was sent to the Whatcom County Superior Court on May 4, 2006, but was returned to the Environmental Hearings Office because the court requires all paper submitted to be printed on 8.5" x 11" paper, printed on one side only, and excluding all tabs.

Travel

Chair Bill Lynch reiterated the boundaries used to determine when to travel to hearings outside of the Lacey office. For the PCHB cases the informal boundaries for conducting hearings in Lacey include any appeals south of Everett and any appeals north of Vancouver.

Mr. Lynch also asked that state motor pool cars be used whenever possible when traveling. Not only is this a cost savings measure, but also a risk management issue. If an accident happens, the state's insurance will cover the liability rather than an owner's private insurance when using a personal vehicle.

Discussion of Pollution and Shoreline Rules

Administrative Appeals Judge Kay Brown distributed *Proposed Changes/Topics of Discussion* regarding Pollution and Shoreline rules (Chapter 371-08 WAC and Chapter 461-08 WAC). Judge Brown walked through several of the changes noting approvals and corrections to the draft. More discussion, however, will take place regarding rule changes at future meetings.

Discussion of Strategic Plan for 2005-07 Biennium

Board Member Kathleen Mix volunteered to review and update the agency's 2005-07 Strategic Plan. She said she would like to reduce the goals as well as the objectives under the goals. Board Member Andrea McNamara Doyle will assist Ms. Mix.

Agency Retreat

Chair Lynch distributed an agenda for the agency's retreat which will take place June 20th and June 21st at the Organic Farm House on the Evergreen State College property. The retreat will review the complete appeal process, ensuring a quality work product. The role of staff will be reviewed, and specific issues will be addressed.

Financial Report

Robyn Bryant reported that the agency's budget continues to show a surplus and suggested that some of the money be used to update the web page. There are decisions that need to be accessible on the web. Other purchases were suggested such as a power point projector or an over-head projector for use during hearings.

Good of the Order

Ms. Bryant reported that Debbie Joblonski has been hired for the Administrative Secretary's position and will begin work on May 23, 2006. Sharon Ziegler will retire on May 31, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Sharon H. Ziegler
Secretary

